

PATENT
Atty. Dkt. No. APPM001570.C2/DSM/HDP/JP
Serial No.: 09/912,112

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated December 19, 2005, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on March 19, 2006. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his time in a telephonic interview with Applicant's representative Keith M. Tackett on November 30, 2005. Applicant agrees with the Examiner's interview summary and thanks the Examiner for entry of the amendment in response to the Office Action dated May 28, 2004 ("the preceding response"). Applicant assumes both a preliminary amendment filed April 9, 2002, and the preceding response has been entered, and respectfully requests acknowledgement by the Examiner.

In the instant Office Action, the drawings filed on July 23, 2001 are objected to by the Examiner. Applicant has submitted amended drawings in the preceding response and Applicant respectfully requests acknowledgment regarding entry of that submission.

Regarding paragraph 1 of the instant Office Action, Applicant submits that the lid assembly is shown in Figure 1 as reference numeral 14 at page 7, line 2 of the specification. Further, page 7, line 22 of the specification was amended in the preceding response to amend "lid assembly 34" to "lid assembly 14". Likewise, page 9, line 16 was amended in a preliminary amendment filed April 9, 2002, to change "lid assembly 34" to "lid assembly 14". In view of the arguments above, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to the drawings as outlined in paragraph 1 of the instant Office Action.

Regarding paragraph 2 of the instant Office Action, Applicant traverses the drawing objection regarding reference numeral 98. Amendments to address the clerical error regarding reference numeral 98 in specific portions of the original specification have been offered in the preceding response. The Examiner is directed to pages 3, 4, and 5 of the preceding response wherein this clerical error regarding reference numeral 98 has been corrected. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to the drawings as outlined in paragraph 2 of the instant Office Action.

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Regarding paragraph 3 of the instant Office Action, Applicant has amended claims 16 and 27 to obviate the objection. Withdrawal of the objection outlined in paragraph 3 of the instant Office Action is respectfully requested. No new matter has been added.

Claims 15-31 remain pending in the application and are shown above. Claims 15-31 are rejected by the Examiner. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is requested for reasons presented below.

Claims 15, 16, and 27 are amended to clarify the invention. Specifically, claim 15 has been amended to obviate the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, and claims 16 and 27 have been amended to obviate the Examiner's drawing objection outlined in paragraph 3 of the instant Office Action. These amendments are not presented to distinguish a reference, thus, the claims as amended are entitled to a full range of equivalents if not previously amended to distinguish a reference.

Claims 15-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement, and failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention, by claiming an "electrically symmetric" processing enclosure. Applicant has amended claim 15, deleting the term "electrically symmetric" from the preamble of the claim, thereby obviating the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection to claims 15-31 is respectfully requested.

Claims 15-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *van Os, et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,792,272. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection on grounds that the reference does not teach or suggest the limitations of the instant claims.

Applicant traverses the Examiner's assertion that reference numeral 27 (Figure 2) of *Van Os, et al.* is "dome shaped." To the extent the inner wall [27] or the opening [27], both shown in Figure 2, is dome shaped, the upper portion of the plasma chamber of *Van Os, et al.* is comprised of two distinct pieces: a cylindrical sidewall, made of a dielectric material and surrounded by RF coils, and a lid having a removable gas injection manifold (see reference numeral 15, figures 1, 2, 3A, 3B), made of aluminum (see column 6, lines 40-43).

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Applicant submits that the reference *Van Os, et al.* does not teach, show, or suggest a processing enclosure comprising a chamber body defining an annular interior processing region, the annular processing region tapering towards a lower end, an exhaust passage concentrically positioned in the lower end of the chamber body, a cantilever mounted annular substrate support member affixed to the chamber body at a position above and concentric to the exhaust passage, and a lid member disposed over an annular open top portion of the chamber body, the lid member having an energy transmitting dome made of a dielectric material, an energy delivery assembly, and a temperature control assembly mounted thereto, as recited in claim 15. Withdrawal of the rejection to claim 15, and claims dependent thereon, is respectfully requested.

Applicant also submits that the reference *Van Os, et al.* does not teach, show, or suggest an apparatus for processing substrates comprising a chamber body having an annular inner sidewall portion and a bottom portion, a pumping aperture positioned in a central location in the bottom portion, the pumping aperture being in fluid communication with a vacuum pump, an annular substrate support member cantilever mounted to the sidewall portion, an outer perimeter of the annular substrate support member having a radius that is smaller than a radius of the annular sidewall portion, and a lid member configured to close an open top portion of the chamber body, the lid member including a dome shaped upper portion made of a dielectric material configured to transmit energy therethrough, as recited in claim 23. Withdrawal of the rejection to claim 23, and claims dependent thereon, is respectfully requested.

In conclusion, the reference cited by the Examiner does not teach, show, or suggest the invention as claimed.

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Having addressed all issues set out in the Final Office Action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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